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ABSTRACT

This collection of items including public testimony by the Vice Chancellor, Jay Hershenson, a formal resolution, a press release, and brochures, documents the City University of New York's (CUNY) unique voter registration system, "CUNY Project Vote". As the press release describes it, Project Vote is the nation's largest student voter registration drive and a non-partisan effort to sign up new voters among the university's 207,000 students and to urge them to participate in the electoral process. A registration fact sheet covers important dates, how to register, polling places, and absentee ballots. A reprint of the CUNY Board of Trustee's formal resolution establishing the plan states the project's goals of providing the chance to register to vote as part of the student class registration process along with appropriate voter education activities at the local college level. Brochures in English, Spanish and Chinese offer information particularly for foreign students concerning eligibility for citizenship, benefits of citizenship, the naturalization process, and the New Citizens Exam. The Vice Chancellor's testimony before the City of New York's Voter Assistance Commission describes the program's development, components, funding, and results. It also proposes changes in the law to make voter registration more accessible to the university community. (JB)

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ED 375 757

CUNY's Voter Registration System

Voter Registration

December 1, 1993

Public Hearing

51 Chambers Street, Room 610, New York City

HE027 856

Testimony submitted by:

Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson

Office of University Relations

The City University of New York

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I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today, and wish to take this opportunity to speak on The City University of New York's unique voter registration system.

The City University of New York is the largest urban university system in the nation, serving an estimated 207,000 degree credit students through a network of 21 colleges and university professional schools. CUNY serves a diverse student population - workers, public assistance recipients, returning adults, single parents, senior citizens, full-timers and part-timers. Over half of the total student body is between 18 and 24 years of age. There are probably more CUNY students who have 18 year old children then any other university! 59% of CUNY's undergraduates, approximately 122,000 students, are first generation college goers and 91.8% of our student body, an estimated 190,026 students, live in New York City. Almost two thirds are African American, Latino and Asian-American and over 60% are female.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

Prior to 1987, many voter registration drives took place at City University campuses. Student governments, NYPIRG, Human SERVE, the Urban League and in some cases student clubs, all contributed to these efforts. All of the involved groups at varying times, raised the need for a more systematic approach and discussions occured from time-to-time.

In the Spring of 1987, the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York established a voter registration system, to encourage participation in the electoral process, at the request of the University Student Senate. On May 26, 1987, the Board unanimously adopted a policy resolution (see attachment) recommended by the Committee on Public Affairs, which required the preparation and development of campus-by-campus plans to integrate voter registration with the class registration process. What a simple but practical concept! Register to vote as you register for class. At the same time, the resolution maintained campus flexibility by permitting the college plans to reflect local needs.

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The Chancellor strongly advocated this new system, and asked each college president to designate a Voter Registration Coordinator. The Office of University Relations, was enlisted to monitor implementation and encourage activities. The University Student Senate was supportive and prepared a poster campaign to expand awareness. The New York City Board of Elections provided pre-stamped voter registration forms in both English and Spanish.

The University provided guidelines for voter registration, in order to outline essential elements for consideration by each college. We received the cooperation from the New York City Board of Elections and the State Board of Elections and began working with campuses on notices in student publications, schedule of class booklets and in pre-registration announcements.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

Each college adapts the system to their situation - although we encourage special efforts during class registration, freshman orientation, pre-freshman summer skills program registration - and campus radio stations are enlisted to publicize the effort.

There is a genuine coalesence within the University around this program. We can verify this by the large number of non-partisan, volunteer, student organizations that provide man and woman power to distribute forms and answer questions in both English and Spanish. College staff, NYPIRG, Student Government and members of student clubs provide the much needed support to make this important program run.

The Office of Community Relations, acts as the systems's coordinator, requesting voter registration plans from the colleges and arranging for delivery of forms.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

A representative of our office keeps in contact with the voter registration coordinators to make certain that plans are implemented, that forms are available and that students' legitimate questions are being answered, and that the maximum number of students have an opportunity to register to vote.

The final responsibility in this process lies with the Voter Registration Coordinator. They are asked to report to the Office of Community Relations, the number of forms that were distributed during that registration period. Based on that information, we have compiled a summary of the number of forms distributed at each college, begining with the fall, 1987 through spring 1993.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

When a college is visited and there is a clear inconsistency between the "plan" and reality, the Chancellor is advised and she calls the college president to rectify the situation. When a college system is particularly innovative - such as the Hostos Community College Naturalization Day (which combines citizenship information and voter registration) positive mention is made at appropriate University-level meetings.

CUNY can, by our latest count, account for the actual distribution of 216,010 forms to interested students.

The University has made expanded efforts during the past two years to register as many CUNY students as possible to vote in the upcoming elections.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

In 1992, CUNY obtained a grant from Barnes and Noble, Inc. to provide our campuses with posters and brochures to promote voter registration during both class registration and freshman orientation.

Through Barnes and Noble, four nationally acclaimed authors, Alice Walker, Stephen King, Jay McInerney and Terry McMillan agreed to contribute their photographs and their quotes on the importance of voting to publicize CUNY's Project Vote. The grant also paid for special non-partisan buttons and pens that were distributed to students, using the theme "I will be heard!".

I am pleased to report that this year CUNY received a special grant from New York Newsday, Inc. to promote and publicize the CUNY's Project Vote at all of the campuses of the University.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

We distributed to the voter registration coordinators attractive posters, buttons and informational materials for distribution with voter registration forms during the freshman orientation and class registration processes. New York Newsday also generously supported the Voter Registration effort with a series of display ads in the newspaper that ran throughout the class registration period. I would like to propose the following changes in the law to make voter registration more accessible to the community.

1. All State and City Agencies be permitted to register individuals to vote while they are being serviceed by the agency through the use of computers that are directly linked to the Board of Elections. A few examples would be the Department of Motor Vehicles, post offices, banks, Department of Social Services, etc.
2. Waive the 30 day residency requirement.
3. Permit City and State Agencies to collect completed forms and forward the same to the Board of Elections.
4. Allow individuals to register to vote upto the day before an election.

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Voter Registration

Testimony

Thank you.

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CityUniversity

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

For immediate release

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
(212)794-5317

CUNY Launches Nation's Largest Student Voter Registration Drive

Over 208,000 Students Urged to Participate

"Speaking Our Mind, CUNY Votes!" is the message to tens of thousands of CUNY students who are being urged to register to vote when they register for classes at all City University of New York colleges. CUNY Project Vote, the largest student voter registration drive in the country, is a non-partisan effort to sign up new voters among CUNY's 208,000 students and urge them to participate in the electoral process. Special targets are new freshmen and transfer students. Voter registration forms have also been distributed during the freshman orientation process and the Pre-freshman Summer Programs at each campus.

Voter registration forms and information materials are being distributed to students, who arrive to register for class, by voter registration coordinators at all CUNY campuses during the month-long drive, along with posters and buttons announcing "Speaking Our Mind, CUNY Votes!"

-more-

Baruch College • Borough of Manhattan Community College • Bronx Community College • Brooklyn College • City College • City University Medical School • City University School of Law at Queens College
Graduate School and University Center • Hostos Community College • Hunter College • John Jay College of Criminal Justice • Kingsborough Community College • LaGuardia Community College • Lehman College
Medgar Evers College • Mount Sinai School of Medicine (affiliated institution) • New York City Technical College • Queens College • Queensborough Community College • College of Staten Island • York College

"Participation in the electoral process is the foundation of citizen empowerment and enfranchisement," said City University of New York Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds. "The success of this voter registration drive is due, in large part, to the strong support and cooperation of each of our college presidents, the University Student Senate, the University Faculty Senate, the Professional Staff Congress, student governments, NYPIRG and other organizations, and other members of the college communities."

The student voter registration plan originated in 1987 with the University Student Senate, which represents CUNY's 21 campuses, and was approved by CUNY's Board of Trustees.

The City University of New York, the nation's leading urban university, comprises ten senior colleges, six community colleges, one technical college, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine. More than 208,000 students are enrolled at campuses throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York.

Editors Note: The attached voter registration fact sheet is being distributed to all students.

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THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

REGISTER TO VOTE WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR CLASS

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE 1994 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

* Primary Election is on Tuesday, September 13, 1994.
* Last date to register for the Primary Election is Friday, August 19, 1994. Remember, you must be enrolled in a party to vote in that party's Primary Election.
* Friday, September 2 - Only if you moved within New York City after August 20, you were registered at your old address and your party enrollment is the same.

* General Election is on Tuesday, November 8, 1994.
* Last date to register for the General Election is Friday, October 14, 1994.
* Friday, October 28 - To re-register to vote in the General Election if you moved within New York City after October 8 and you were registered at your old address.

WHO CAN REGISTER TO VOTE

In order to be eligible to register:

* You must be a U.S. citizen and 18 years or older by election day.
* You must have been a resident of New York City for 30 days.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registering to vote is easy to do.

* Get a form, fill it out and mail it in. You don't even need a stamp. Its as simple as that.
* To get your voter registration form by mail, or for more information about voting, call 212-VOTE-NYC or 212-868-3692.
* Because of their firm belief in the importance of voting, the Colleges of the City University of New York have arranged to make voter registration forms available to all CUNY students when they register for Fall classes.

HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

You only have to re-register if you a) move, b) change your name, c) switch your party enrollment. If you are a New York City resident who has not voted since 1989, you should re-register to vote.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

You will receive a voter card from the Board of Elections indicating your election district number and polling site location. Call (212)VOTE-NYC or (212)868-3692 if you have any questions. Important: you do not need a voter card or any ID when you go to your polling site to vote.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO TO MY POLLING PLACE AND MY NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST?

If you have already registered to vote, you have the right to ask for a paper ballot to vote. Also, ask the poll worker for a "Voting Rights" flyer that gives you more information about your rights.

WHO CAN VOTE IN THE 1994 PRIMARY ELECTION?

Registered voters who enrolled in a political party before the 1993 general election and new voters who register and enroll by August 19 are eligible to vote in their political party's 1994 primary election. ALL REGISTERED VOTERS CAN VOTE FOR ANY CANDIDATE IN ANY PARTY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

If you are registered, but will be out of the city, or are physically unable to go to the polls on Election Day, you can vote by absentee ballot. To receive an absentee ballot application call (212)VOTE-NYC or the Board of Elections office in your borough at least four weeks in advance.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

A. VOTER REGISTRATION:

RESOLVED, That the colleges of The City University of New York shall each develop a plan to provide the opportunity for voter registration as a part of the student registration process, consistent with campus administrative practices and schedules and in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Legal Affairs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such plans shall be submitted to the Chancellor by June 30 for implementation with the Fall 1987 student registration process.

EXPLANATION: The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York has recognized the importance of voter registration, as a matter of public policy. It is intended that voter registration be conducted on a non-partisan basis and that all students be encouraged to participate in the electoral process, in accordance with the fundamental democratic principles of our society. It is also intended that, as appropriate, voter education activities on a local college level shall be promoted.

This resolution was recommended by the University Student Senate.

May 26, 1987, Cal. No. 10.A.

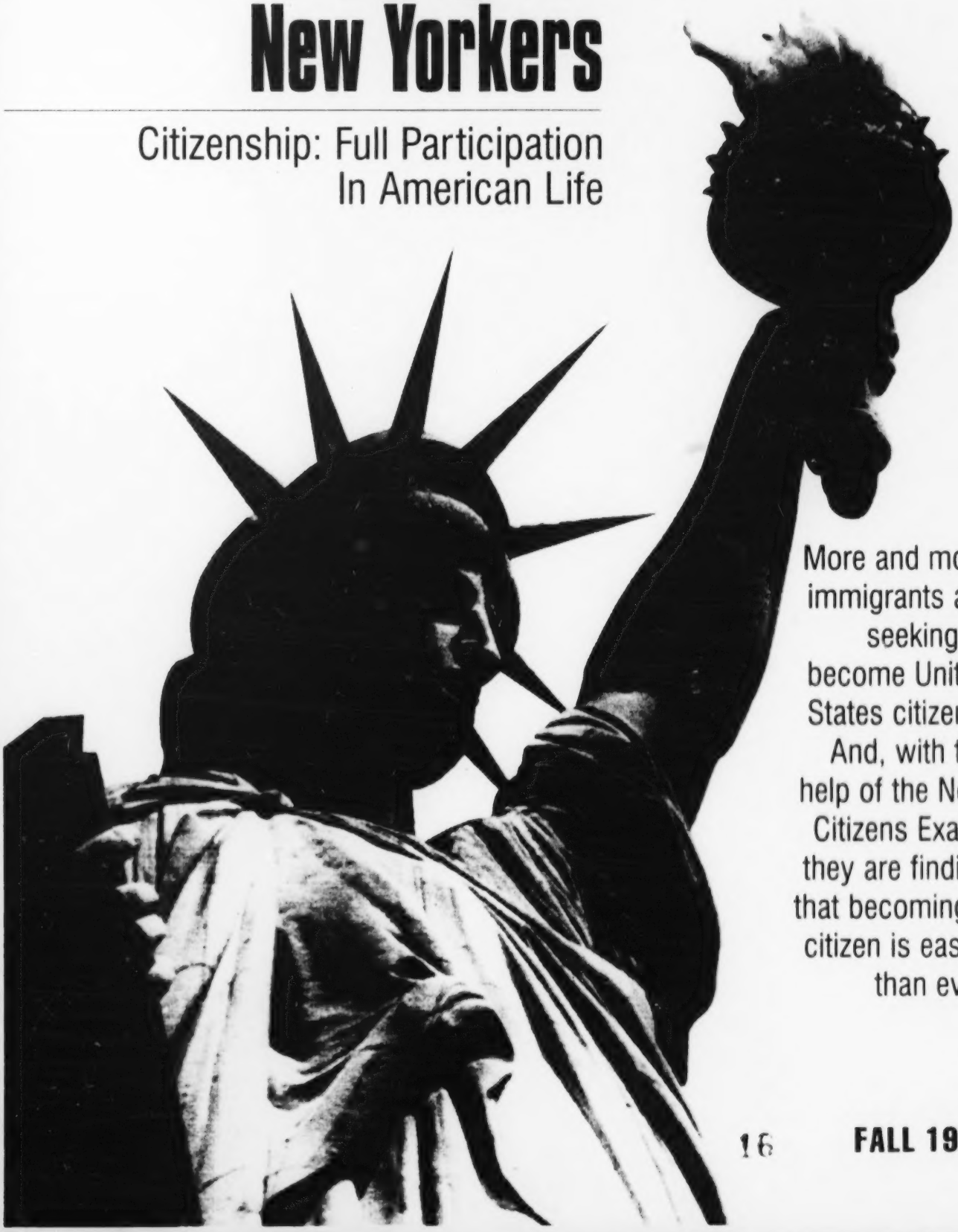
Martin J. Warmbrand

Martin J. Warmbrand, Secretary of the Board

A true copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees

Immigrant New Yorkers

Citizenship: Full Participation In American Life



More and more immigrants are seeking to become United States citizens. And, with the help of the New Citizens Exam, they are finding that becoming a citizen is easier than ever.

What Are Some Benefits Of United States Citizenship?

- You will have the right to register to vote and to run for local, state and federal office.
- You can petition for the permanent residence of your spouse, minor children (married or unmarried), parents and siblings.
- You will have the right to enter and leave the United States, without time limitations on your travels.
- When you and your spouse become United States citizens, your minor children are automatically entitled to become citizens, regardless of where they were born.
- You will be protected from deportation.
- You can take up residence in a foreign country and, depending on the country, still be able to retain your social security benefits.
- You will have access to certain jobs that are by law restricted to United States citizens.

Can I Apply For Naturalization?

You may apply for naturalization if:

- You have been a lawful permanent resident for five years; or,
- You have been a lawful permanent resident for three years, have been married to a United States citizen for those three years, and continue to be married to that United States citizen; or,
- You are a lawful permanent resident child of United States parents; or,
- You have qualifying military service.

In most cases, you will need to fulfill the following requirements. You must:

- Be 18 years of age and
- Have good moral character, for example, you must have paid your taxes, and not have been convicted of a serious crime.;
- Be willing to pledge to uphold the Constitution of the United States;
- Have knowledge and understanding of the United States government and history;
- Have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months of the five years you resided there. (If you leave the United States for more than six months but less than a year, you will have to prove that you did not abandon your residence in the United States. If you leave for more than a year or more, you may have to start counting the five years all over again.)

What Do I Need To File An Application For Naturalization?

You must obtain Form N-400, "Application for Naturalization," from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) or a local community organization. You must submit this form with the following:

- A copy of your alien registration card
- 2 color photographs (described in the N-400)
- 2 fingerprint charts (included in the packet)
- A check or money order for $95 made payable to "Immigration and Naturalization Service" or "INS"
- Men who were between the ages of 18 and 26 while residing in the United States must include information regarding their Selective Service registration.

You should fill out the N-400 and mail it to the INS, along with the photos, fingerprints and check or money order for $95. Make sure you keep a copy for your records! Then wait for the INS to set an interview date. On the day of the interview, you will be tested on your knowledge of the United States history and government, and on your ability to speak and understand English.

Do I Really Need To Speak English To Become A United States Citizen?

Yes! You must speak and understand English to become a citizen of the United States. Only under special circumstances can you be exempted from the English-language requirement. For example, you will be exempted from the English-language requirement if on the date of your examination, you are 50 years old and have been a lawful permanent resident for 20 years or more, or you are 55 years of age and have been a lawful permanent resident for at least 15 years.

If I Legalized Through The Amnesty Program, When Can I Apply For Citizenship?

If you are legalized through the amnesty program you are eligible to apply for naturalization five years after the date you were granted permanent residence, NOT temporary residence.

Can I Take The United States History And Government Exam Before Your Interview?

Yes. If you pass The New Citizens Exam, given by Educational Testing Services (ETS), you will not be tested on United States government or history again on the day of your interview.

What Is ETS?

ETS is a private, not-for-profit testing service contracted by the INS to offer the exam portion of the INS naturalization application. Once you pass the ETS' New Citizens Exam, you will not be asked questions about history or government at your INS interview.

But remember: the New Citizens Exam does not exempt applicants for naturalization from being required to speak and understand English at your INS interview. *(See the prior panel, "Do I Really Need To Speak English...?)*

How Do I Sign Up For The ETS Exam?

To get an information and registration packet, call ETS at (800) 358-6230. Return the completed registration form with a money order for $16 made out to "new Citizens Projects/ETS." Mail your registration form and money order so that it is received by ETS 30 days before the test date. You will then receive a ticket for the test session. You will need to take your ticket, a photo ID and an INS document that shows your "A" number to the exam.

You can also sign up for the exam by going to a test center on the day of the exam. Call the test center ahead of time to make sure the test is still being given, and that they have space available. If you sign up on the day of the exam, the fee is $20. However, when you try to sign up on the day of the exam, there is no guarantee that there will be enough room for you to take the exam.

The ETS results are valid for a year, and INS will not have a record of your score if you do not pass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information on filing application for naturalization, or for the names of reputable agencies that can provide low-cost assistance with naturalization, call the New York Immigration Hotline. They have multi-lingual counselors who will provide you with free and confidential help. They can also provide a list of ETS test centers.

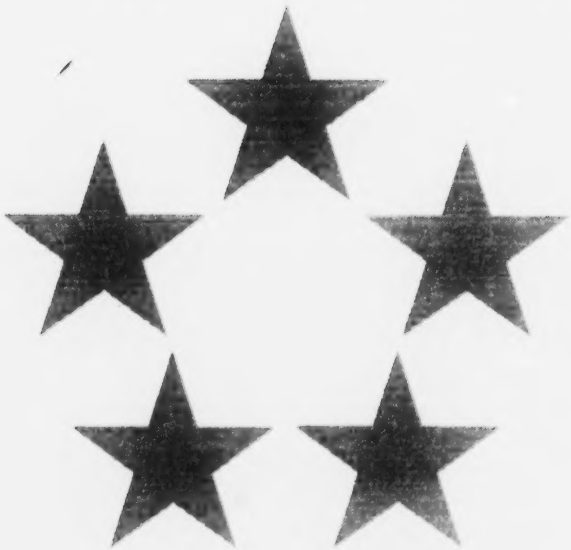
The New York Immigration Hotline

In New York City:

(718) 899-4000

Outside New York City:

(800) 232-0212



Courtesy Of

New York Newsday

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
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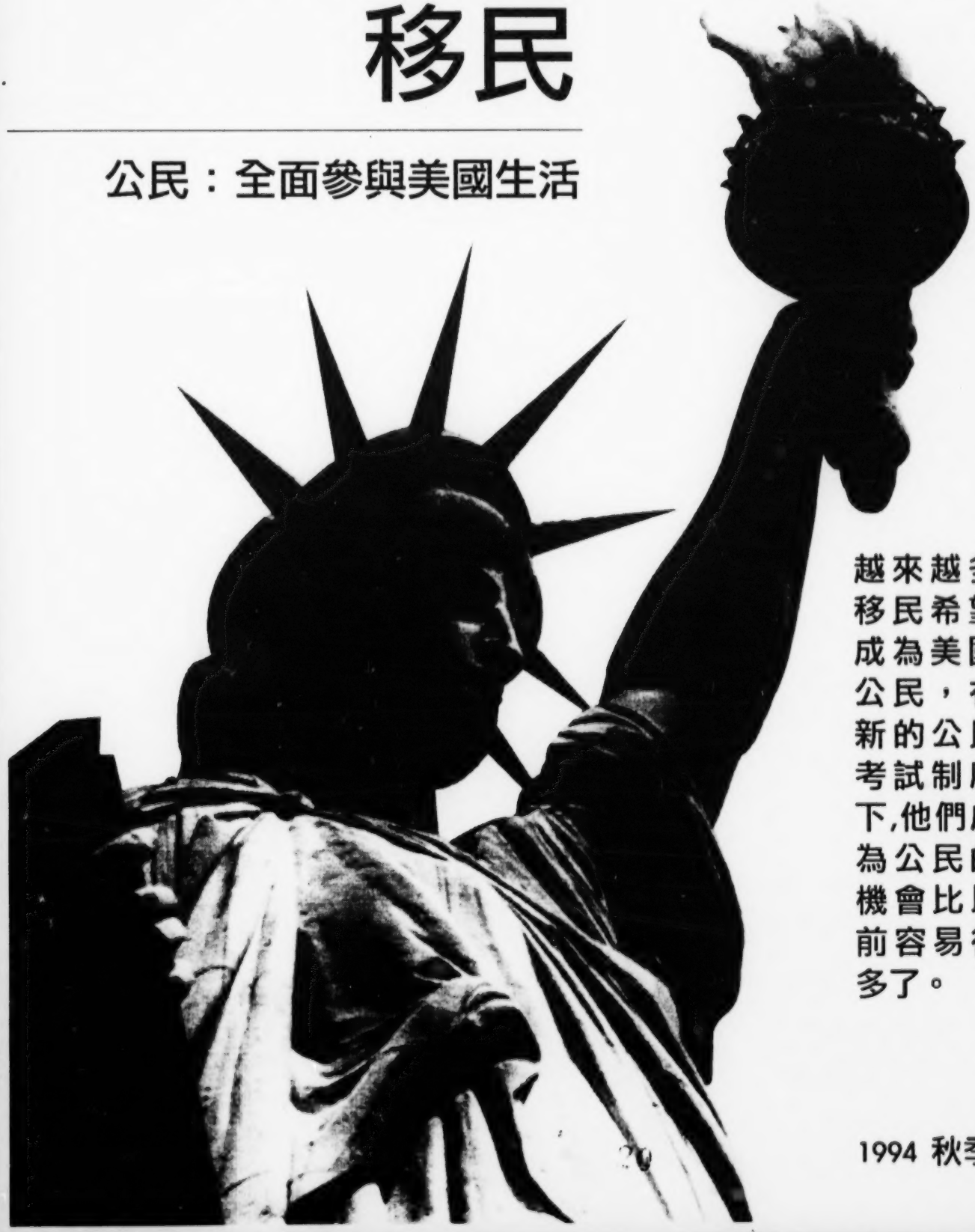
N Y
FOUNDED IN 1847

Developed by **The New York Immigration Coalition**
with funding from **The Fund for New Citizens at The New York Community Trust**

紐約移民

公民：全面參與美國生活



多越來越移成公新考下為機前多望希民公民的試,公會容。國在度制們比易了成的以得

1994 秋季

美國公民擁有那些福利？

★ 你將會有權登記成為選民和競選市、州和聯邦公職。
★ 你能為你的配偶、未成年的子女（已婚或未婚）、父母和兄弟姐妹申請在美永久居留。
★ 你有權自由出入美國境而不受時間上的限制。
★ 當你和你的配偶成為公民後，你們的未成年子女，不論在何處出生就有成為公民的資格，但須提出申請。
★ 你不會被驅逐出境。
★ 你有機會得到一些在法例下指定是美國公民才能做的工作。

我能申請成為公民嗎？

你可以申請成為公民，如果：

★ 你成為一位合法的永久居民已有五年，或者，
★ 你和一位美國公民結婚，而且取得永久居留權已有三年，在這三年內及申請期間並沒有和這公民離異。或者，
★ 是具有合法永久居民身份的孩童，而且你的父母是美國公民。或者，
★ 你在軍中服務並合乎申請公民規定。

在大部份個案中，你需要符合以下的要求

★ 年滿十八歲以上。
★ 有好的行為，例如你有交稅，和沒有被判犯了嚴重罪行。
★ 誓言履行美國憲法。
★ 認識和清楚明白美國政府及歷史。
★ 在最近五年內最少有三十個月親身留在美國境內。（若你離境超過六個月但少於一年，你將要證明你不是放棄美國居民身份。若你離境超過一年或以上，就要重新計劃五年的時間）。

我需要甚麼文件來申請美國公民？

你需要填寫 N - 400 表格 " APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION " （公民申請）。可在移民局（INS）或社區組織取得申請表格。在你遞交表格時，必須連同以下之文件：

★ 兩張彩色近照（按 N-400 表格內之規定）。
★ 兩套手指模表格（附在表格內）。
★ 九十五元的私人或現金支票，收款人請寫 " IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE " 或 " INS "。
★ 居留在美境內而年齡在十八至廿六歲間的男士，必須提供他們服兵役的資料。

你須填好N-400表格，連同本人相片、指模表格及支票九十五元，寄到移民局。請保留一份影印本。之後就等移民局通知面試日期。在面試當日，你將會接受一個有關美國歷史和政府認識的測驗，和你講英文及瞭解英文的能力。

我是否必須要能講英文才能成為美國公民？

答案是肯定的，你必須要能講及明白英文才能成為美國公民，只有在一些特殊情況下才得豁免——如你在面試當日已屆滿五十歲及在美有廿年以上的合法永久居留身份。或你已滿五十五歲和在美有十五年以上的合法永久居留身份。

如經大赦而取得合法身份，我能否申請公民？

如你由大赦取得永久居民身份，而非暫時民，這樣在你取得永久居民身份的那一天算起，五年後你就可申請成為公民。

目前教育考試服務局（ETS）主辦一項新公民測驗，你可在面試前先通過這項測驗。這樣你將不須在移民局面試當日應考有關美國歷史及政府部份的測驗。

什麼是 ETS ？

教育考試服務局（ETS）是與移民局簽定合約的一個私人及非牟利考試服務機構。提供移民局公民申請中的測驗部份，若你通過ETS的新公民測驗便不須在移局面試時再回答美國歷史和政府之問題。

但是記著：新公民測驗並不包括講英文瞭解英文等部份，所以雖然你通過新公民測驗，但仍須在移民局面試當日應考關於口說及瞭解英文的這一部份。（請參閱〝我是否必須能講英文才能成為美國公民〞？）

我如何能報考 " ETS " ？

請電:(800)358-6230索取報名表格及詳細資料指南。填好報名表格連同十六元的現金支票郵寄 " NEW CITIZEN PROJECT / ETS " 你的報名表及支票，必須在考試日期前三十日寄或交到ETS。你將會收到ETS寄給你的考試證。在考試日必須帶考試證，一份有照片的身份證明和一份移民局發給你的任何文件，在文件上要有你的綠卡號碼。

你也可直接到ETS考試中心報名考試，請先電話聯絡考試中心。問清楚考試時間和他們是否能為你安排應試時間。如你即日報名考試，費用為二十元（雖然你直接到中心報考，但並不保證能立即參加考試）。

ETS考試結果有效限期是一年，即使你沒有考試合格，可再繼續重考，移民局是沒有記錄的。

其他資料

如果想要更多有關申請公民的各項資料或欲得一份收費合理及合格的〝公民服務〞專業人員名單，請電紐約移民熱線。他們有能操多種語言的輔導人員為你提供免費及絕對保密的幫助，他們亦提供ETS各考試中心地點的資料。

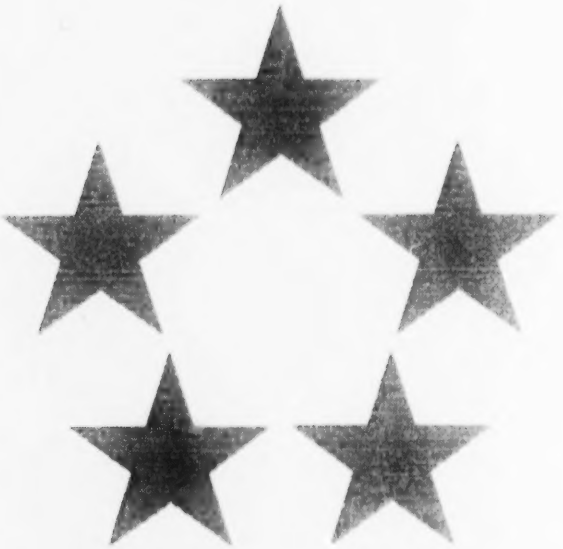
紐約移民熱線

紐約市:

(718) 899-4000

紐約州以外地區:

(800) 232-0212



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Immigrantes de Nueva York

Ciudadanía: Participación plena en la vida americana

Más y más inmigrantes están intentando convertirse en ciudadanos americanos. Y, con la ayuda del Examen para los Nuevos Ciudadanos, están descubriendo que hacerse ciudadano es más fácil que nunca.

Otoño 1994

¿Cuáles son algunas de las ventajas de tener ciudadanía americana?

- Ud tendrá el derecho de inscribirse para votar y de ser candidato para puestos políticos a nivel local, estatal y federal.
- Podrá solicitar la residencia permanente para su esposa, hijos (casados o no), padres y hermanos.
- Tendrá el derecho de entrar y salir de los EEUU sin restricción de tiempo en sus viajes.
- Si Ud y su cónyuge son ciudadanos americanos, sus hijos menores automáticamente serán elegibles para la ciudadanía, sin importar dónde nacieron.
- Estará protegido contra la deportación.
- Podrá tomar residencia en otro país y, dependiendo del país, podrá retener los beneficios del seguro social.
- Tendrá derecho a ciertos trabajos que por ley están restringidos a ciudadanos americanos.

¿Puedo postular para la Naturalización?

Usted puede postular para naturalización si

- Ha sido residente permanente legal durante cinco años; o,
- Ha sido residente permanente legal por tres años, ha estado casado con una persona con ciudadanía americana durante esos años y continúa casado con esa persona; o,
- Ud es hijo residente legal de padres que son ciudadanos americanos; o,
- Ud califica por causa de servicio militar.

En la mayoría de los casos tendrá que satisfacer los siguientes requisitos. Ud debe:

- Ser mayor de 18 años y ser de buen carácter moral. Por ejemplo, Ud tiene que haber pagado su impuestos y no haber sido declarado culpable de un crimen;
- Estar dispuesto a prometer que apoyará la Constitución de los Estados Unidos;
- Tener conocimiento básico del gobierno de los EEUU y de su historia;
- Haber estado físicamente presente en los EEUU por lo menos 30 meses de los cinco años requeridos de residencia. (Si Ud ha salido de los EEUU por más de seis meses pero menos de un año, tendrá que demostrar que Ud no abandonó su residencia en los EEUU. Si Ud salió por más de un año, quizás tenga que empezar a contar los cinco años a partir de ese momento).

¿Qué necesito para someter la solicitud de Naturalización?

Debe obtener el formulario N-400, "Solicitud de Naturalización", en la oficina de Inmigración o en alguna organización comunal. Debe someter la solicitud con lo siguiente:

- Una copia de su tarjeta de residencia.
- 2 fotografías a colores (las especificaciones están descritas en la N-400)
- 2 tarjetas de huellas digitales (incluídas en el paquete)
- Un cheque o giro postal por $95 pagable a "Immigration and Naturalization Service" o "INS".
- Los hombres que residieron en los EEUU entre las edades de 18 y 26 años deben incluir información sobre su registro en el Servicio Selectivo.

Llene el formulario N-400 y mándelo por correo a Inmigración junto con las fotos, las huellas y el cheque o giro postal por $95. ¡Haga una copia de todo para sus records! Luego, espere que Inmigración le avise la fecha para su entrevista. El día de su cita, se le examinará sobre su conocimiento de historia y gobierno de los EEUU y sobre su habilidad para hablar inglés.

¿Es necesario hablar inglés para ser ciudadano americano?

¡Sí! Ud debe hablar y entender inglés para ser ciudadano de los EEUU.
Sólo bajo ciertas circunstancias especiales se puede Ud eximir de este requisito. Por ejemplo, estará exento si el día de su entrevista Ud es mayor de 50 años y ha sido residente permanente durante más de 20 años; o, si Ud es

mayor de 55 años y ha sido residente permanente legal durante 15 años.

Si me legalicé a través del programa de Amnistía, ¿cuándo puedo solicitar la ciudadanía?

Si Ud se legalizó a través del programa de amnistía, será elegible para solicitar su naturalización cinco años después de la fecha en que Ud consiguió su residencia permanente (no la residencia temporal)

¡Ahora Ud puede dar el examen de historia y gobierno de los EEUU antes de su entrevista con Inmigración! Si aprueba el examen de los Nuevos Ciudadanos, administrado por el Servicio de Exámenes Educativos (ETS), no tendrá que dar este examen de nuevo el día de su cita.

¿Qué es ETS?

ETS (Servicio de Exámenes Educativos) es una organización no lucrativa, privada y contratada por el Servicio de Inmigración que administra el examen que es parte de su solicitud de ciudadanía. Una vez que Ud aprueba este examen, no se le examinará nuevamente sobre este tema el día de su entrevista con Inmigración.

Pero recuerde: el Examen de los Nuevos Ciudadanos no exenta a los solicitantes de ciudadanía del requisito de hablar y entender inglés. Aunque Ud apruebe el examen de ETS, se le requerirá también que hable y entienda inglés en el momento de su entrevista con Inmigración (véase en el interior, "¿Es necesario hablar inglés...?")

¿Cómo me inscribo para tomar el examen ETS?

Para obtener una guía informativa y el paquete pará inscribirse, llame ETS al **(800) 358-6230**. Llene la hoja de matrícula y devuélvala con un giro postal por $16 pagables a "New Citizens Project/ETS". Esto debe llegar a la oficina de ETS 30 días antes de la fecha de examen elegida. Luego recibirá un boleto para la sesión del examen. El día del examen, lleve el boleto, identificación personal y un documento de Inmigración que indique su número de residencia (el número "A").

Ud puede también inscribirse en persona en el centro donde se va a administrar el examen el mismo día que se ofrece. Llame al centro con anticipación para asegurarse que van a dar el examen y que todavía queda lugar. Si Ud se inscribe el día del examen, tendrá que pagar $20. **Sin embargo, si intenta inscribirse el día del examen no se le garantiza que quede lugar para Ud.**

Los resultados del examen ETS son válidos durante un año y el Servicio de Inmigración no tendrá record de su puntuación si no lo aprueba.

PARA MAS INFORMACION:

Para informarse sobre cómo someter la solicitud para naturalización y para conseguir una lista de agencias con reputación que le puedan proveer asistencia legal a bajo costo, llame a la Línea Informativa de Inmigración de Nueva York. Esta tiene consejeros que hablan múltiples idiomas y que le asistirán con ayuda gratis y confidencial. También le pueden proveer una lista de centros para tomar el examen ETS.

La línea Informativa de Inmigración de Nueva York:

En la ciudad de Nueva York

(718) 899-4000

Fuera de la ciudad de Nueva York

(800) 232-0212

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